

Agency: Commerce, Community and Economic Development**Grants to Named Recipients (AS 37.05.316)****Grant Recipient: Native Village of Kotzebue****Federal Tax ID: 92-0060128****Project Title:****Project Type: Other**

Native Village of Kotzebue - Nikaitchuat Iisagviat School Support and Expansion

State Funding Requested: \$100,000**House District: 40 / T**

One-Time Need

Brief Project Description:

Ongoing support and expansion for Nikaitchuat Iisagviat school.

Funding Plan:

Total Project Cost:	\$200,000
Funding Already Secured:	(\$100,000)
FY2015 State Funding Request:	(\$100,000)
Project Deficit:	\$0

Funding Details:

\$100,000 matching funds, Northwest Arctic Borough

Detailed Project Description and Justification:**Brief Summary:**

Nikaitchuat Iisagviat is the only Inupiaq immersion school in the State of Alaska and United States. The school is vitally important to our Alaskan education of young students to learning our heritage language and continue our proud way of life. As a tribally operated immersion school, we have started the 16th year of operation this fall 2013 serving grades P-K-1. Today the vitality of our school and Inupiaq language depends upon the ever widening circle of teachers, elders, volunteers, regional leaders and agencies to stand in unity and support our community and language. The school has been a long-standing priority of the tribe and was confirmed via resolution 13-109 (see attached).

History and Need:

As background, the Native Village of Kotzebue is a federally-recognized tribe and is the governing body of the members of Qikiqtagruk or Kotzebue, Alaska. The Tribe operates a very successful school, Nikaitchuat Iisagviat (translates into "anything is possible place of learning"), for grades P-K-1 since 1998, and has yet to receive regular support from the State of Alaska. The mission of Nikaitchuat is "to instill the knowledge of Inupiaq identity, dignity, respect and to cultivate a love of lifelong learning." As of today, Nikaitchuat has served well over 130 families from local families and families who relocated from around the region during our successful years of operation. Each year we have dedicated community members who volunteer their own time to help keep our program successful. We average over 300 parent volunteer hours, 75 community volunteer hours, and 75 elder volunteer hours. Our doors are open to our community and region; we have potlucks once a month to collaborate with our community members to support the speaking of our Inupiaq language and Inupiaq cultural values. Nikaitchuat instills in our youth and community the importance of education, by preserving our identity and cultural

knowledge they will thrive to be successful individuals.

Key Benefits:

Nikaitchuat Ilisagviat was started by the tribe to teach our Inupiaq language and improve the quality of education with our students. Today, it is the only school in the United States to teach the Inupiaq language via immersion methods -- a key benefit to the State of Alaska as indigenous languages are declining and need to be revitalized as recognized by Senate Bill 130 that established the Alaska Native Language Preservation and Advisory Council. In addition, the Kotzebue public school has not and does not meet adequate yearly progress (AYP) and there are no alternatives for our residents in a rural and isolated community. Nikaitchuat Ilisagviat alumni have been tested and compared to public school students in Kotzebue and the evaluation found that the tribal school students out-performed their peers. Our rural students deserve the opportunity for quality and successful tribally operated education such as Nikaitchuat Ilisagviat. With the availability of State of Alaska resources, we could expand our tribally operated school and provide more positive impacts with Kotzebue students.

Cost: The cost is \$200,000 from the State of Alaska (\$100,000) with an equal match from the Northwest Arctic Borough (\$100,000).

Project Timeline:

Funds will be expended as soon as available.

Entity Responsible for the Ongoing Operation and Maintenance of this Project:

Native Village of Kotzebue

Grant Recipient Contact Information:

Name: Ukallaysaaq Tom Okleasik
 Title: Executive Director
 Address: PO Box 296
 Kotzebue, Alaska 99752
 Phone Number: (907)442-3467
 Email: executive.director@qira.org

Has this project been through a public review process at the local level and is it a community priority? Yes No

Native Village of Kotzebue Kotzebue IRA

November 22, 2013

Karen Rehfeld, Director
Office of Management and Budget
State of Alaska
P.O. Box 110020
Juneau, AK 99811-0020

Knowledge of Language

Knowledge of Family Tree

Sharing

Humility

Respect for Others

Love for Children

Cooperation

Hard Work

Respect for Elders

Respect for Nature

Avoid Conflict

Family Roles

Humor

Spirituality

Domestic Skills

Hunter Success

Responsibility to Tribe

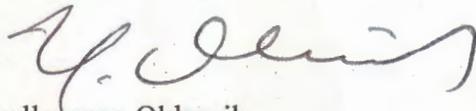
Dear Ms. Rehfeld:

On behalf of the Native Village of Kotzebue, quyaana for your letter dated October 16, 2013, confirming the receipt of the tribe's priorities submitted to the Governor's Office.

Attached with this letter is additional information and background on the requests for the coming year State budget. We would greatly appreciate being included in the Governor's budget within appropriate agencies. The priorities were selected by the tribal council balancing economic-social-cultural development.

We look forward to the support of the State of Alaska to improve the quality of life in our community that will benefit all Alaskans. If you have any questions or need further information, please feel free to contact me at (907) 442-3467 or via e-mail at executive.director@qira.org.

Sincerely,



Ukallaysaaq Okleasik
Executive Director

Cc: Commissioner Susan K. Bell, DCCED
Commissioner Mike Hanley, DEED
Commissioner Dianne Blumer, DOL
Commissioner William J. Streur, DHSS
Senator Donny Olson
Representative Ben Nageak
Marie Greene, NANA Regional Corporation
Mayor Reggie Joule, NWAB

Date Request Submitted: November 21, 2013

Priority: 1

State of Alaska Fiscal Year 2014

Funding Need

Name of Project: Kotzebue Multi-Purpose Community Building

Where is the project located: Kotzebue, Alaska

Contact Information:

Organization: Native Village of Kotzebue
Name: Ukallaysaaq Tom Okleasik, Executive Director
Address: P.O. BOX 296 Kotzebue, Alaska 99752
Work Number: 907-442-3467
E-mail address: executive.director@qira.org

Capital Projects

Amount of State funding needed: \$250,000 – planning, design and engineering

Source and amount of matching funds received: \$25,000 NANA Regional Corporation, Village Economic Development Program

Land Value: in-kind building site lease with the City of Kotzebue.

Total amount of funding needed? \$270,000 – planning, design and engineering

Term of project: 1 year

Brief Summary:

The overall goal is *to enhance the quality of life in the community with long-term economic impacts for supporting and creating jobs that honors and advances our culture*. This project was strategically identified by the tribal council in 2010 and approved via resolution 10-20 and confirmed via resolution 13-109 (see attached).



Figure 1: aerial view of Kotzebue

History and Need:

As background, the tribe currently leases office space from Maniilaq Association (which we have outgrown) and the options for office space in Kotzebue are extremely limited – an infrastructure challenge for economic and community development. Our tribal programs have an annual budget of \$4.5 million/year and have utilized the current office space at 100% capacity which is a pivotal issue to create job opportunities in the community. Our long-term plans are to expand Nikaitchuat (only Inupiaq immersion school in the US) at the existing office site up to grade 6 with progressive expansion to grade 12 – eventually utilizing the whole building. At the same time, we see expanding our tribal programs in roads/transportation, youth services, Elder

services, environmental/Arctic science, but need to relocate our offices to the new multi-purpose building.

Key Benefits:

The new multi-purpose building is being developed to include the following important uses and key benefits:

(1) Relocation of the tribal offices and programs with the capacity to create new rural-based jobs with current and new tribal funding opportunities. Under existing BIA PL 93-638 contracts and new tribal grants with modern office space with technology integration, we can create new jobs. This includes the following tribal/community programs: Realty, Social Services (general assistance, ICWA/child welfare, food distribution program), Tribal Enrollment, Education, Environment, Housing, Transportation/Roads, and Tribal Administration. These programs provide a stable building “tenant” for operations of the facility.

(2) Cultural resource and education center including archive and storage of artifacts. Currently, the tribe owns hundreds of artifacts that are generally recovered from community infrastructure projects (water/sewer, airport improvements, roads development, etc.) and federal/state agency research projects (NPS, BLM, USFW). Unfortunately, only a few are on display at the tribe and many are sent to outside universities and museum for storage as there is insufficient storage within the tribe and community. The new facility will provide a way to store important artifacts and more notably engage local Elders, youth, archeologists and researchers to learn from our past as a resource and cultural education center.

(3) Modern qatigii for community gathering and training space for up to 75 people. This will support tribal activities including monthly meetings of the council and committees, interagency meetings, workshops and job training, and space availability for rental for local meetings and events. We also plan the space to be available to support dance group practices and civic groups. The space can also be utilized as an emergency location for disasters and evacuations.

(4) New retail space for the Qikiqtaḡruq Trading Company (QTC) section 17 tribal chartered corporation. This is a new economic business of the Tribe and is envisioned to retail groceries and subsistence/camping products to support affordable prices and competitive prices for addressing the cost of living in Kotzebue. This will also help support the operations and maintenance of the new facility.

Sustainability: The Tribe will continue to provide a majority of the maintenance costs for the new building via our annual BIA multi-year funding agreement. In addition, the QTC economic development will contribute to the building sustainability.

Cost: The cost is estimated at \$250,000 for planning, design and engineering services to prepare the project to be shovel ready (construction documents, finalized building costs/estimates, permits, environmental review), with an additional \$25,000 match provided via NANA Regional Corporation under the Village Economic Development program.



*2013 Staff Photo
Native Village of Kotzebue*

Date Request Submitted: November 21, 2013

Priority: 2

State of Alaska Fiscal Year 2014

Funding Need

Name of Project: Nikaitchuat Iḷisaġviat School Support and Expansion

Where is the project located: Kotzebue, Alaska

Contact Information:

Organization: Native Village of Kotzebue
Name: Ukallaysaaq Tom Okleasik, Executive Director
Address: P.O. BOX 296 Kotzebue, Alaska 99752
Work Number: 907-442-3467
E-mail address: executive.director@qira.org

Education Project

Amount of State funding needed: \$100,000

Source and amount of matching funds received: \$100,000 Northwest Arctic Borough

Total amount of funding needed? \$200,000

Term of project: 1 year

Brief Summary:

Nikaitchuat Iḷisaġviat is the only Iñupiaq immersion school in the State of Alaska and United States – the school is vitally important to our Alaskan education of young students to learning our heritage language and continue our proud way of life. As a tribally operated immersion school, we have started the 16th year of operation this fall 2013 serving grades P-K-1. Today the vitality of our school and Iñupiaq language depends upon the ever widening circle of teachers, elders, volunteers, regional leaders and agencies to stand in unity and support our community and language. The school has been a long-standing priority of the tribe and was confirmed via resolution 13-109 (see attached).



History and Need:

As background, the Native Village of Kotzebue is a federally-recognized tribe and is the governing body of the members of Qikiqtaġruk or Kotzebue, Alaska. The Tribe operates a very successful school, Nikaitchuat Iḷisaġviat (translates into “anything is possible place of learning”), for grades P-K-1 since 1998, and has yet to receive regular support from the State of Alaska.

The mission of Nikaitchuat is “to instill the knowledge of Iñupiaq identity, dignity, respect and to cultivate a love of lifelong learning.”

As of today, Nikaitchuat has served well over 130 families from local families and families who relocated from around the region during our successful years of operation. Each year we have dedicated community members who volunteer their own time to help keep our program successful. We average over 300 parent volunteer hours, 75 community volunteer hours, and 75 elder volunteer hours.

Our doors are open to our community and region; we have potlucks once a month to collaborate with our community members to support the speaking of our Iñupiaq language and Iñupiaq cultural values. Nikaitchuat instills in our youth and community the importance of education, by preserving our identity and cultural knowledge they will thrive to be successful individuals.

Key Benefits:

Nikaitchuat Iḷisaḡviat was started by the tribe to teach our Iñupiaq language and improve the quality of education with our students. Today, it is the only school in the United States to teach the Iñupiaq language via immersion methods – a key benefit to the State of Alaska as indigenous languages are declining and need to be revitalized as recognized by Senate Bill 130 that established the Alaska Native Language Preservation and Advisory Council.

In addition, the Kotzebue public school has not and does not meet adequate yearly progress (AYP) and there are no alternatives for our residents in a rural and isolated community. Nikaitchuat Iḷisaḡviat alumni have been tested and compared to public school students in Kotzebue and the evaluation found that the tribal school students out-performed their peers. Our rural students deserve the opportunity for quality and successful tribally operated education such as Nikaitchuat Iḷisaḡviat. With the availability of State of Alaska resources, we could expand our tribally operated school and provide more positive impacts with Kotzebue students.

Cost: The cost is \$200,000 from the State of Alaska (\$100,000) with an equal match from the Northwest Arctic Borough (\$100,000).



Date Request Submitted: November 21, 2013

Priority: 3

State of Alaska Fiscal Year 2014

Funding Need

Name of Project: Qikiqtaġruq Trading Company (QTC) Business Development

Where is the project located: Kotzebue, Alaska

Contact Information:

Organization: Native Village of Kotzebue
Name: Ukallaysaaq Tom Okleasik, Executive Director
Address: P.O. BOX 296 Kotzebue, Alaska 99752
Work Number: 907-442-3467
E-mail address: executive.director@qira.org

Education Project

Amount of State funding needed: \$25,000

Source and amount of matching funds received: \$10,000 Native Village of Kotzebue

Total amount of funding needed? \$35,000

Term of project: 1 year

Brief Summary:

Economic development in Kotzebue is a high priority of the tribe – both to create jobs, support new businesses, and address the high cost of living. This project to expand a tribally chartered business – Qikiqtaġruq Trading Company (QTC) – is important way for the tribe to enhance the economy of Kotzebue and established as a priority by the tribal council via resolution 13-109 (see attached).

History and Need:

The Native Village of Kotzebue’s main goal and driving force is to serve our community by providing the maximum amount of benefit possible with the resources available. The vision of the Tribe is: *“The Qikiqtaġrugmiut, forever sovereign, will live our Iñupiaq way of life for all generations.”*

The cost of living in Kotzebue was established the highest in the State of Alaska – Alaska Economic Trends, August 2009, “The Cost of Living in Alaska” page 6-7. This puts a significant burden on households in Kotzebue, and at the same time makes it challenging for new

businesses to start. Unemployment in the community is very high and there is a significant need to create jobs – especially entry level that can be filled by local residents.

The tribal council has identified an economic opportunity to create a retail grocery and dry good enterprise. This recognizes that there is a limited number of retailers in Kotzebue – Alaska Commercial Company (AC) and Rotman’s. Both have above-average mark-ups resulting in significantly higher prices than the same and comparable retailers in Barrow and Nome.

Key Benefits:

The overall goal is *to enhance the quality of life in the community with long-term economic impacts for supporting and creating jobs that honors and advances our culture.* This is a new economic business of the Tribe and is envisioned to retail groceries and subsistence/camping products to support affordable prices and competitive prices for addressing the cost of living in Kotzebue.

This tribal enterprise is envisioned to share space in a new multi-purpose building. QTC will help support the operations and maintenance of the new facility to benefit the whole community.

The business development activities will include updating the business plan including a market feasibility study, vendor arrangements/commitments, point-of-sale (POS) system selection, policy and management guidelines, and financing options for start-up. This is an important step to the business development for securing capital investment/financing to create economic opportunities and jobs.

Cost: The cost is \$35,000 from the State of Alaska (\$25,000) with a match from the tribe (\$10,000).



Figure 1: Kotzebue



Figure 2: Annual meeting discussions

Native Village of Kotzebue Kotzebue IRA

RESOLUTION 13-109

A RESOLUTION TO ESTABLISH THE TOP THREE PRIORITIES FOR FEDERAL-STATE REQUESTS FOR 2013-14

Knowledge of Language

WHEREAS, The Native Village of Kotzebue is a federally-recognized tribe and is the governing body of the Tribal members of Qikiqtagruk or Kotzebue, Alaska; and

Knowledge of Family Tree

Sharing

WHEREAS, The Tribe operates various federally funded services and programs but has many needs in our rural and Alaska Native community; and

Humility

Respect for Others

WHEREAS, The Tribe ascribes to self-determination so as to render all services to be responsive to the community needs, reflect the culture of our people, and best utilize limited resources effectively.

Love for Children

Cooperation

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, That the Native Village of Kotzebue tribal council establishes the following as the top three (3) tribal organization priorities with federal-state agencies for funding requests for 2013-2014:

Hard Work

Respect for Elders

1. New Kotzebue Multi-Purpose Community Building that supports enhanced tribal operations, cultural-education program development, economic development and community development.
2. Support for Nikaitchaut Iḷisagviat (only Iñupiaq immersion school in Alaska and US) with funding to expand for serving grades 2-4
3. Qikiqtagruk Trading Company (QTC) business development (feasibility and business plans) for economic development and creating new jobs

Respect for Nature

Avoid Conflict

Family Roles

Humor

Spirituality

Domestic Skills

Hunter Success

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That the Native Village of Kotzebue tribal council supports the following as the top three (3) Kotzebue community priorities with federal-state agencies for funding requests for 2013-2014:

Responsibility to Tribe

1. Kotzebue homeless shelter for a safe place, particularly in winter to help prevent individuals from freezing to death
2. Kotzebue alcohol and drug treatment center with Maniilaq Association that supports detox and provides an inpatient program
3. Kotzebue placement home for children in need of aid (CINA) cases, and transitional home for youth and women.

CERTIFICATION

A vote of 6 for and 0 against and 7 not voting adopt this resolution 13-109 at a regular meeting of the Native Village of Kotzebue, Kotzebue Council held this 24th day of September, 2013.



Chester L. Ballot, Chairman



Wilbur Karmun Jr. Secretary